

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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R 121020Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9262

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BGEN PO

SUBJ: USG POLICY RE SALES OF LIGHT ARMS TO PRIVATE

BUYER IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA

1. EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY THE LISBON FIRM A.M SILVA, A REPUTABLE IMPORTER AND RETAILER OF SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION, REGARDING THE PURCHASE IN THE US OF ARMS AND PARAMILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR THE ZAMBEZIAN RAILWAYS CO. IN MOZAMBIQUE. ACCORDING TO THE A.M. SILVA REPS, THIS PRIVATE RAILROAD COMPANY NEEDS TO PROVIDE A SELF-DEFENSE FORCE FOR EACH OF ITS TRAINS IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ATTACKS BY GUERILLA FORCES. THE ZAMBEZIAN RAILWAYS CO. PROPUSES PURCHASE THIS EQUIPMENT IN SMALL AMOUNTS EITHER THROUGH MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE OR CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL. THE QUIPMENT INCLUDES 7.62 CAL AUTOMATIC RIFLES, 60MM MORTARS, 7.62 CAL LIGHT MACHINE GUNS, AND A MOBILE RADIO NETWORK. THIS SELF-DEFENSE FORCE WOULD BE
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PATTERNED AFTER A SIMILAR PRIVATE SECURITY FORCE USED

BY THE BENGUELA RAILWAY CO. IN ANGOLA.

3. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE INFORMED SILVA REPRESENTATIVE THAT GIVEN US ARMS EMBARGO POLICY, PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL OF SALE OF DESIRED ITEMS SEEN VERY SLIM. EMBOFF SAID SAME RULES WOULD OBTAIN IF SILVA SOUGHT TO BUY MATERIEL THROUGH MALAWI.

3. PURCHASE OF ARMS FOR PRIVATE FORCE WOULD APPEAR TO BE LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM PURCHASE BY GOP ARMED FORCES, AS INDEED IF GOP ARMED FORCES WERE ABLE TO PROTECT RAILROAD PRIVATE FORCE WOULD NOT BE NEEDED. ACTIONS OF PRIVATE FORCES WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST INSURGENTS, PRESUMABLY FRELIMO. AS THESE ARE CLEARLY MUNITIONS LIST ITEMS, NORMAL PAST EMBARGO PROCEDURES WOULD REQUIRE THAT GOP PROVIDE NATO ASSURANCES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE HAVE PROMISED SILVA A FURTHER REPLY, BASED ON WASHINGTON VIEWS. PLEASE INFORM US WHETHER USG IS LIKELY TO ISSUE EXPORT LICENSE FOR THESE ITEMS. (IN EVENT LICENSE MIGHT BE GRANTED, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN NAMES OF REPUTABLE US SUPPLIERS).
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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